

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CONWAY

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20 June 1999

SUBJECT

Soviet Naval Forces in Gdynia and the Bay of Gdansk (Danzig)

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25X1

DATE OF INFO.

**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. :**

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Between 6 and 17 February 1955, Soviet Naval forces were seen in the harbor of Gdynia and in the Bay of Danzig. The following details were obtained:

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CLASSIFICATION

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<u>Class</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Harbor</u>	<u>Berth</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
destroyers	Skori	6 to 12 Feb	1100	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	Entered harbor from the sea; destroyers were berthed along the inner edge of the outer mole of Harbor Basin IX; destroyer [] at the outer edge of the mole; berthing maneuver was perfect (sic). Destroyer [] with full steam back, came from the outer harbor, stopped alongside the mooring posts, let go anchor and ordered full speed ahead; the ship stopped instantly and moored at the post. During the night of 10 February, the destroyers put to sea again and returned at nightfall. The same observations were made on 10, 11 and 12 February 1955. While in the harbor, the vessels flew the jack.
destroyers	Skori	6 and 7 Feb	day-time	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	Cleaning of all ships on 6 and 7 February. The destroyers were berthed in packs of two except for destroyer [] because of tugs with practice targets alongside the destroyers. [] The destroyers were the same type. They had an unusually large star with yellow letters TM at the bridge. Each of the two tugboats alongside the destroyers towed three practice targets which were canvas-covered, had a length of approx 10 meters and were approx 8 meters high. No hits were noted.

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3.	destroyers	Skori	10 Feb	1830	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	Entered harbor from the sea; the destroyers entered harbor one after another through the northern entrance, turned without towage and moored with the stern facing the entrance.
	naval tug	?	10 Feb	1845	Gdynia	outer edge of mole of Harbor Basin IX	Entered harbor from the sea with practice target in tow, using the front entrance to harbor; (large naval tug).
	destroyers	Skori	11 Feb	0620	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	The destroyers put to sea side by side; berthing and putting off maneuver carried out perfectly. The destroyers did not assemble in front of the harbor entrance but approached a naval unit which was berthed at Hal road. Having reached the unit, the destroyers, in formation of four, formed line ahead and proceeded toward Neufahrwasser.
	cruisers	Sverdlov	11 Feb	1000	Hela road	weighed anchor at 1000 and put to sea toward Neufahrwasser	Destroyer [] remained with the cruisers; 12 small vessels, apparently submarine chasers of the Kronstadt Class, were near the cruisers. Prior to 1000, when the cruisers lay at anchor and later when they moved out, the vessels were approached by MiG-15s. One of the aircraft towed a slave target which was fired at by light AA guns from the naval vessels. They fired with tracer ammunition. Three MiGs were in the air at a time and only that aircraft with the slave target approached the cruisers. The two others were to the right and left of the ships at high altitudes. They had round insignia with white-red squares.

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Destroyers	Skori	11 Feb	1645	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX
tug with practice target	?	1 Feb	1800	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX, outer edge of mole
destroyers	Skori	12 Feb	0830	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX

After the naval force got under way, only an auxiliary ship the size of a destroyer, with slightly inclined stern, a smoke-stack slightly slanting to the rear and a tripod mast remained at Hel. road. The tug with practice target which put to sea together with the destroyers held the course of the destroyers for some time and, long before reaching the cruisers, turned east and went out of sight. In the afternoon of 11 February, irregular gun fire was heard. One shot was heard about every two or three minutes. There were long intervals after series of 10 or 12 shots had been fired. The guns had an estimated 20 mm caliber. While firing, the cruisers and destroyers were apparently in front of the old mouth of the Vistula River.

The destroyers individually entered the harbor. They gave semaphore messages from ship to ship. No signals with hand search-lights were given. The cruisers anchored again at Hel. road at 1600.

Entered harbor from the sea. The target sails were folded and it could not be determined whether the carriage was damaged.

Put to sea. The destroyers left one after another and gathered at Hel. road. Activity similar to that on 11 February. The cruisers were approached by MIGs. The tug with practice target was at sea. Heavy gun fire was heard.

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		12 Feb	1600			
						Completion of exercise. The cruisers again were at anchor at Hel road. The small vessels previously seen there apparently put into Hel harbor.
destroyers	Skori	12 Feb	1700	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	Returned to harbor. The larboard spar of the target was heavily damaged and was being repaired by the tug crew.
		13 Feb	0830	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	The destroyers and tug again put to sea. 25X1
cruiser	Sverdlov	13 Feb	1000	Hel Road		Newly arrived. She was escorted by destroyer. Both ships joined the naval unit which put to sea toward the east as they had on the previous days.
		13 Feb	1700	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	The destroyers and the tug put to harbor. The practice target was intact. 25X1
		14 Feb	0815	Gdynia	Harbor Basin IX	The destroyers and the tug put to sea during light snow falls.
						At 1700, a considerable number of ships assembled in the Bay of Danzig in a southerly direction during light snow falls. No details were obtained. Berthing and putting off maneuver was done perfectly.
cruiser	?	12 Feb	1000	Putziger Wiek	at anchor	[redacted] was painted in white color below the bridge. The cruiser had two unusually high smoke stacks. No other ships anchored there. 25X1

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cruiser	?	12 Feb	1500	approx 10 to 11 seamiles north Putzig	Course: approx 290°. At 1500, the cruiser appeared at starboard side from the west at an eastern course. At intervals of approx 20 minutes, smoke was discharged twice from a nozzle at the stern. The smoke screen remained on the water for approx 45 minutes.
destroyer	Skori	16 Feb	1300	near Hela approach buoy	The destroyer towed a practice target of approx 5 x 5 meters, and was zigzagging. Six more destroyers of the same type cruised without firing approx 1.5 seamiles away from destroyer []
destroyers	Skori	16 Feb	1400	put to Gdynia harbor from the Bay of Danzig	These destroyers as well as destroyer [] flew the Soviet war ensign; however, with two red stars and not, as was previously observed, star with hammer and sickle.
destroyer	?	16 Feb	1700	entered Gdynia	Destroyer was fitted with one stack.
destroyer	Skori	17 Feb	1015	put to sea from Gdynia	Destroyer ran at high speed and flew the Soviet war ensign with two red stars.

The silhouettes of 5 or 6 cruisers were sighted in the Bay of Hel.

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